

Nonpublic School Advisory Committee Notes

October 10, 2017

Grimes State Office Building – State Board Room

1:00 p.m.

Facilitators: Kim Hermsen and Nicole Proesch

Members in Attendance: Herbert Hartman, Kimberly Hermsen, Merilee Sump, Juli Margolin,
Leland Morrison

Department Representatives: Isbelia Azola, Steve Crew, Janelle Brandhorst, Amy Williamson,
Holly Barnes, Jennifer Riedemann

Guests: Joan Thompson, Eric Goranson, Tracy Bonday, Patty Lansink

Explanation of Purpose of Nonpublic Advisory

- [256.15 Nonpublic School Advisory Committee Code](#)

256.15 Nonpublic school advisory committee. A nonpublic school advisory committee is established which consists of five members, to be appointed by the governor, each of them to be a citizen of the United States and a resident of the state of Iowa. The term of the members is four years. The duties of the committee are to advise the state board and the director on matters affecting nonpublic schools, including but not limited to the establishment of standards for teacher certification and the establishment of standards for, and approval of, all nonpublic schools. Notice of meetings of the state board shall be sent by the director to members of the committee.

Committee members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance of their duties. Members may also be eligible to receive compensation as provided in section 7E.6. The expense money shall be paid from the appropriations to the department of education. 86 Acts, chapter 1245, section 1415.

Nonpublic Schools and Differentiated Accountability

- Currently during Differentiated Accountability visits the Iowa Department of Education (Department) is focusing on Assessments, Databased Decision Making, Universal Instruction and Intervention Systems.
- The atomic flower is a shorthand description of the continuous improvement process the department uses for the whole state. The health indicators petals correspond to the colors on each conceptual area.
- Differentiated Accountability is not required, but it is a way for the Department to offer support to school with areas that are need of assistance based on their data.

- For those schools that are participating desk audits are done annually. If schools are need of intensive services, we do site visits to be able to offer face to face support.
- Universal Tier Tools are available on the [Differentiated Accountability](#) page on the Department website.
- Regional trainings have started this year in the area education agencies (AEAs) and will be offered in October, November and December.
- Superintendents would like to have access to their desk audits and what their schools are submitting and when.
 - Amy Williamson will work on a way to get the superintendents access to their schools information.
 - An independent meeting will be arranged with the Department and the Catholic superintendents to handle this issue.

Feedback of Summer Regional Meetings

- This past summer we held regional meetings to discuss Title I, II and III to provide guidance and discuss the changes that occurred in Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Our hopes were to start conversations on how the new requirements apply so that everyone, public and nonpublic schools, get the same and correct information on how the changes apply to them.
- We believe that better than half of the districts in the state were represented.
- Recently the Department was contacted to come to Grant Wood Area Education Agency to meet with nonpublic schools to discuss only Title II for those who missed the summer meeting.
 - Isbelia will share with Kim who came to this meeting.
- There are still some inconsistencies between public districts. It would be helpful if the Department could provide yearly workshops to discuss requirements and changes every single year to help provide consistency.
- Finding the right times to hold the meetings is still being discussed. Kim would recommend January as she feels it is a time for schools to start thinking about professional development for the next year.
- Things that would also be helpful is getting the dates out to the public and nonpublic schools sooner; adding a Q&A page; and a checklist.
- The information, training videos and handouts for the Summer Regional meetings can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B78BXzf9Af3TkRuSzljcUtlQmc>

Title II, Part A: Formula and Funding

- The formula for Title II, Part A has changed this year.
- The new formula is based on equitable distribution – per pupil distributions of funds.
- When the Department receives a look at the State allocation, we then have to run a formula based on distributions of fund (i.e. number of students, poverty, etc.).

- In May/June we get notified of the maximum allocation per pupil for Title II. We then send this out as the preliminary allocation. We then get another allocation in October, February and in May for this fiscal year.
- The per pupil allocation may change a little bit and it may impact the nonpublic schools this year. Isbelia is not anticipating it will be a big difference but there might be a slight reduction to the per pupil allocation.
- The reduction we had in October was so small it did not make a sense to recalculate; we are going to wait till February and see what the new amount looks like before we decide to if we need to send out new allocations.
- Isbelia does not anticipate that if we have a reduction it will be more than 5% but she cannot guarantee anything till we actually get the next set of numbers.
- All federal programs are funded first in first out. We still have an 18 month window to spend before the feds close out their fiscal year.
- If you do not spend your allocation within the fiscal year, you can work with the public school to apply for a carryover to let us know why you didn't spend the funds.
- If you have any questions or issues feel free to contact Isbelia.

Role of the Ombudsperson

- Steve Crew is the State Ombudsperson.
- The role of the State Ombudsperson is to serve as a secondary resource regarding equitable services requirements.
- If an issue or question arises you should first contact your specialized education consultant regarding your question or issue. If for some reason they are unable to get you're the correct answer or help you, Steve will work with them in finding an answer.
- The role of the Ombudsperson is really to create a systematic approach to what we are doing to ensure equitable services are being provided across the entire state across public and nonpublic schools.
- With his role he has also created a complaint system as well as a consultation process as it applies to the Title programs.
- If there is a time where the nonpublic and public schools do not agree on a subject they should:
 1. Sit down and have a meeting between the two to try to work out a solution.
 2. If a solution cannot be reached they then need to contact their education consultant at the Department for that program and have meeting regarding the issue.
 3. If they still do not agree or they feel we are not following the rules or the law you can file a complaint within the complaint system, when dealing with equitable services.
 4. Steve will respond within 30 days on how your complaint will be resolved.
- Through this process a complaint library is also be created where past complaints and resolutions can be researched.

- Steve needs the email address at the school level for all of the nonpublic schools who would need access to the complaint form and library.
 - Steve will take the nonpublic schools contacts we have in our directory and add the four Diocese superintendents to achieve a full list.

Questions:

- Why is Title III still held at the AEA and not at the districts?
 - We have made many changes to Title III including:
 - Linda Carroll and Amy Williamson is splitting the duties of Title III. Amy is taking compliance and Linda is taking instructional supports.
 - We have also taken back the review of the LAU plans from the AEA.
 - The AEA's job should focus on instructional supports for districts and schools. With that said they can look at LAU plans but they will not review the plans for compliance.
 - Historically the reason we moved Title III to the AEA is because at one time it made sense to allow them to distribute services appropriately based on the need. With that being said, demographics and needs have changed so this may be something we should look at and reassess.
- Can an instructor come from the public school building into the nonpublic school building to provide services and still allow the public school to claim those students on their numeric count for weighted State funding?
 - Amy and Nicole will follow up on the question and get back with Tracy.
 - Can we also clarify where it is written stating public schools can do this and get the weighting?

Department Updates

New State Assessment

- The State issued a press release stating a new vendor had been selected in regards to the state assessment but there was an appeal on the decision. Since the appeal occurred everything is on hold until a decision has been reached.

ELPA21

- Due to budget concerns and the rising cost of the ELPA21 assessment, the State will pay \$12 per student to help pay for the cost of the assessment.
- The State will pay the consortium directly per student and the public or nonpublic school will be billed for the remaining \$16 per student.
- We are not sure if funding will be available from the State for this test next year, so you should budget appropriately.
- If funding is not available can nonpublic schools find a different assessment to use?
 - This has not been something we have had to look at yet; more research will have to be done.

Changes with FASTBridge

- We currently have approximately 40 nonpublic school that is using the FASTBridge system.
- We have been receiving positive feedback.
- Each district and nonpublic schools are deciding if they want a designated person or two to have access to all schools in your dioceses. If you have schools that are using this system, we want to make sure we have the correct contact person so the data is being distributed appropriately.
- We are currently working with each AEA to offer face-to-face training and all of your schools should have received invitations to these trainings.

ESSA

- The Department has submitted the ESSA plan September 18. They have 120 days to give feedback and/or approve. If they do approve this will be the final. If changes are needed they will notify us by phone.

Nonpublic Representation

- IRRC – Kate Coneally, Sioux City
- ESSA- Dan Ryan and Kim Hermesen (one subcommittee)
- Computer Science Workgroup – Merilee may be able to find someone.
- Postsecondary readiness (very heavy on data, measurement, and statistics) – Tracy may be able to have someone from Dowling; Cade Lambert from Des Moines Public Christian School may be a good person to discuss about this.

Next Meeting December 12, 2017